

Issue 2 - January 2021

DISCOVER PORTRUSH

THE MAGAZINE OF PORTRUSH HERITAGE GROUP

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PORTRUSH HERITAGE GROUP

Supported by
The National Lottery Heritage Fund's
Heritage Emergency Fund



All of us at Portrush Heritage Group are very excited to be able to share our latest project, Young Explorer Portrush or YEP!. We have been working on this for over a year, having won funding through the Open Legacy Fund following the 148th Open Golf Championship held here in July 2019. Our new app and teacher resources will be launched at Easter 2021. I am the first to admit that, even though I grew up in Portrush, I knew very little about my town. I went to Portrush Primary and then Dalriada. I had my first summer job washing dishes in Forte's Ice Cream Parlour. I am connected to Portrush, but I never learnt anything about it in school. It seems strange to me now, that my education offered me no knowledge about my own environment, the history, culture and bio-diversity on my doorstep.

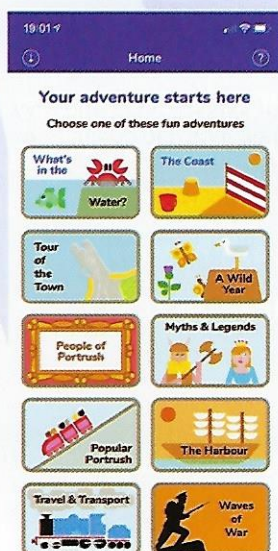
As a teacher, I know the benefits of giving children a sense of belonging, of community and of pride in their environment. It creates a safe and familiar place for them to grow, an appreciation of those around them, and most importantly, it improves their own self-esteem and their sense of who they are in this world.

Young Explorer Portrush (YEP!) will allow local schools, as well as visitors from all over the world, to learn about the heritage, flora, fauna, people, stories and landscapes that make up our wonderful town.

There are 10 adventures to explore through our brand new app, YEP! These take in topics explored in schools through the Northern Ireland World Around Us curriculum, covering all the aspects of History, Geography, Science and Technology. The wonderful thing is that they are all based around Portrush. 'Myths and Legends' retells local stories, 'What's in the Water' looks into our rockpools and marine life, 'People of Portrush' offers information on notable names linked with Portrush, either by birth or because of the impact they have had on our town. All 10 adventures are specific to Portrush, allowing a development of self within a home context for every child. As well as the App, each adventure is accompanied by Teacher Resources with activities for the classroom as well as out in the field.

There are also original videos, starring local actor Andrew Porter, and drone footage which explain the main points of learning in a fun, kid-friendly way. These visual formats ensure that the information is accessible to all learners and that everyone can connect and be engaged. I am very excited about this project, not least because, as a teacher, I can use this in my classroom to teach children about all the aspects of their local community which will connect them to it forever. Also, on a personal level, I feel that we are offering a resource that can be used by visiting school trips and tourists, introducing them to all that Portrush has to offer. There are so many people who have helped bring YEP! to fruition, those who have given so generously of their time, resources and knowledge to make this into such an amazing resource.

In January 2020 teachers from our local Primary Schools participated in a full-day Workshop in the Portrush Atlantic Hotel to agree on the topics and priorities for research.



Teachers and Heritage Group members attending the YEP! Workshop in January 2020, from left Kyrstina Graham, Jade Thorne, Leanne Penn, Deirdre Doherty, John McNally; Mervyn McKay, Hazel Harris and Paul Hayes.

John Moore has done vast amounts of research and writing. Mervyn McKay and Stuart Cullen have produced all of our video and audio footage. Ayla Sims has worked tirelessly on creating our social media and YouTube presence. John McNally has kept the project steaming forward, even through a pandemic!

Special thanks also to Patricia O'Brien and her team in the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Grants Department for their guidance and support throughout the project. Thanks also to the National Lottery Heritage Emergency Fund for their support with the provision of recording equipment and expertise that has enabled us to add additional content into the project. YEP! has definitely been a team effort!

All this would not have happened without the financial support of the R&A. Their 'Legacy Fund' will, through YEP!, bring the "Legacy of 148th Open at Royal Portrush into the school rooms of our Portrush Primary Schools.



Joe Mahon on Portrush and YEP!

Most of us know the seaside town of Portrush as a fun holiday destination, a magnet for day-trippers and tourists. Certainly my own childhood memories of Portrush are filled with images of sandy beaches, ice-cream, candy floss and Barry's Amusements. But, wonderful as these attractions are, there's a great deal more to this place than meets the eye.



Portrush translates from the original Irish as "the promontory port" and the promontory in question is the basaltic headland known as Ramore Head, jutting out from a coastline, notoriously exposed to the worst that the north Atlantic weather can throw at it. From the very earliest days of human habitation in these parts, dating back at least 6,000 years ago, sea-going people would have sought the shelter of this headland and pulled their fishing boats into whatever natural harbours they could find. One of these natural harbours became the town of Portrush.

A number of local people, who know and who value their own history, think it a very good idea that children who grow up in this area develop an awareness of this rich heritage and the natural environment that goes with it. They are The Portrush Heritage Group and they have produced a truly imaginative series of learning materials for schools, a set of adventures really, - all designed to encourage children to become Young Explorers, to get out and about and to discover at first hand the marvels of the world that can be found on their own doorstep. And, - to have fun while they're doing it! And here's the good news for the rest of us. You don't have to be from Portrush to use them!

Dinners in the Station Café

By Kate Murphy

John Moore's recent article about the old Portrush station, the shops and café contained therein, and in particular the use of the café as a school meals cafeteria sparked some memories.



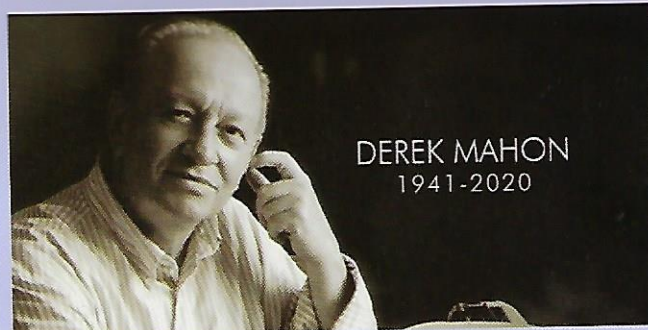
Photo courtesy of John Moore Collection

Until Portrush Primary School was built and opened on Crocna-mac Road in 1954, there were three schools in Portrush. The Methodists were the first congregation to provide a school in their schoolhouse/chapel where their church stands today, but by this time the schools were the Kelly Memorial on Victoria Street, The Mark Street School sited in what is now the Presbyterian Hall, and St Patrick's Primary on Causeway Street.

Dinner was provided for pupils every day in the station café. Colette Loughrey told me of her aunts, the Misses Tinkler who, helped by a young woman called Nell Adams, made sustaining and tasty dinners from the small sum they were allowed for each child. Clara and Lily Tinkler learned their skills in Inglis' Café Belfast and Capronis' in Bangor before returning to Portrush to take up the position of school cooks. Clara was said to 'have a great hand' with the shepherd's pie and their 'cake and custard' was always appreciated.

Our chairperson, John McNally, remembers walking, in procession, from St Patrick's to the Station Café for lunch. He described 'big long tables where each school had their block, servers in white caps and a chaotic level of noise'. If he stayed close to his good friend Tommy Tinkler, nephew of Clara and Lily, they might have got an extra serving. This was especially welcome if the fluffy sponge with sticky pink raspberry sauce was on the menu. 'I can taste it yet,' he told me. Colm McCloskey's favourite memory of the time was apple crumble and custard. He described how the children were given tickets before they left school and had to produce them when they got to the station. He recorded walking in crocodile shape to take a short cut along the back of Hamilton Place.

The 'new' school, which provided for children from the Kelly Memorial and Mark Street schools, had its own on-site canteen. St Patrick's children also got dinners there until they built their own hall/canteen in 1966. The station café fell into disuse and was knocked down in the 1970s. The Misses Tinkler went on to run a guest house on Golf Terrace opposite the station.



DEREK MAHON
1941-2020

Derek Mahon, the internationally acclaimed poet, who died in October last year, was writer-in-residence at the University of Ulster in 1978 and 79. At some time during this period he stayed in Portrush in 'a pleasant white-washed house with flaking pilasters at the front door and a magnificent sea view'.

He wrote, 'From the window where I write I look eastwards along the shore to the ruins of Dunluce Castle (once a MacDonnell stronghold) and the Giant's Causeway. Slightly to my right is the Royal Portrush golf course, slightly to my left the Atlantic Ocean, with a scattering of rocky islands called the Skerries between me and Scotland. On a clear day I can see Jura and Islay. 'Earth has not anything to show more fair.' I wonder do any of our readers know of, or recognize, the house where he stayed.

In an article entitled 'The Coleraine Triangle (1979) Mahon wrote, 'this stretch of coast is, if you can conceive of such a thing, a sort of Ulster Riviera, with Portrush as its Nice. Belfast people flock here at Easter, and in July and August, to eat their 'high teas' and stare curiously across the water at Donegal. Genteel landladies, the season at an end, go off to foreign parts for a well-earned rest, letting their premises to the students just arriving for the autumn term. Those who work during the holiday season go back on the dole and head for the Harbour Bar where, before an open fire and beneath sepia photographs and advertisements for Craven 'A', the sagacious Peter Scullion serves the best pint for miles.'

Mahon's poem, 'The Chinese Restaurant', will resonate with many of us who remember the old wolfhound, (whom elsewhere he names Fingal) 'dozing in the sun' in what was then The Northern Counties Hotel.

The Chinese Restaurant in Portrush, by Derek Mahon

Before the holidaymakers, come the spring
Softening the sharp air of the coast
In time for the first 'invasion'.
Today the place is as it might have been,
Gentle and almost hospitable. A girl
Strides past the Northern Counties Hotel,
Light-footed, swinging a book-bag,
And the doors that were shut all winter
Against the north wind and the sea-mist
Lie open to the street, where one
By one the gulls go window-shopping
And an old wolfhound dozes in the sun.

While I sit with my paper and prawn chow-mein
Under a framed photograph of Hong Kong,
The proprietor of the Chinese restaurant
Stands at the door as if the world were young
Watching the first yacht hoist a sail,—
An ideogram on sea-cloud,—and the light
Of heaven upon the mountain of Donegal;
And whistles a little tune, dreaming of home.



Corrstown - a Middle Bronze Age settlement c.3500-3000 years BP (Before Portrush)

By Dr Peter Wilson

Some scientists use the BC/AD timescale when discussing past events, others use BP to signify years Before Present, but Before Portrush is perhaps a more fitting term with respect to Corrstown - the Middle Bronze Age settlement excavated in 2002-03 on the southern outskirts of the town. What began as small test excavations were soon scaled up when it became clear that evidence for a significant prehistoric settlement lay beneath the topsoil. When the archaeologists had completed their work the developers moved in, and now you might never know that the concrete foundations of the modern residences share space with postholes, pits, trenches and cobbled pathways of a village that existed between c.3500 and 3000 years BP.

The area excavated revealed ground plans of 74 oval or circular structures that, on the basis of abundant pottery fragments, suggested the majority had been houses while others had probably been for storage or animals. Not all the houses had been constructed and occupied at the same time; some ground plans overlapped, indicating that several houses had been replaced by others as the years went by. It is thought that about 50 of the houses were lived in concurrently.

Most houses were between 7 and 9 metres in diameter and each had a single entrance or porch that faced either south or southeast to maximise natural light and warmth. Biting northerly winds were not unknown in the Bronze Age! The housing pattern was not random; some of the dwellings formed pairs and others occurred in short rows.

Excavation revealed numerous postholes that provide an indication of how the houses were built. The postholes held upright timbers that supported cross beams that in turn supported radial rafters. These rafters met in the centre and created a steep conical style of roof that extended almost to ground level. The roof covering may have been of thatch or sods. (As shown by the illustrations). Internally the houses would have been rather dark and dank.

Cobbled pathways connected the houses and a cobbled 'roadway' 95 metres in length and an average width of 10 metres passed through part of the site. This feature may have been the primary easterly route leading to and from the settlement.

Three phases of settlement history were deduced from interpretation of 37 radiocarbon dates on charcoal fragments recovered during excavation. A Growth Phase beginning around 3500 years BP and lasting for up to 250 years was followed by a Village Phase from around 3300 years BP and lasting for up to 150 years, then the Decline Phase began around 3100 years BP and lasted for 100-300 years. Because radiocarbon ages have an associated inherent uncertainty, greater precision for phase lengths is not possible. But what is not in doubt is that Corrstown functioned as a well-managed and organised community for a few hundred years.

While it is wonderful to have all this information available there is something missing from the story - the people of Corrstown. Who were they? Where did they come from? How did they live? How were they governed? Answers to these questions are not easy to give. Human remains were not found on the site so ancient DNA cannot be analysed. The population may have been 200-300 during the Village Phase, with several generations over that period. How and where did they dispose of the dead?

We do know that the Corrstown residents used handmade pottery - over 9,000 fragments were found - and over 16,500 flint pieces were collected. No metal artefacts or slag were recovered, although four stone moulds for casting bronze objects were unearthed. A mixed economy based around arable and pastoral agriculture, and fishing is likely to have sustained the population, but excavation evidence for this was rather sparse.

Even though we know so much about Corrstown, we also know so little.



RODNEY STREET - What's in a name?

By Keith Beattie

In Portrush, there is one street, in particular, which has an uncommon name, seldom found elsewhere in Northern Ireland - Rodney Street. The question is, who was Rodney and what did he do to deserve a street named in his honour?

Who was Rodney?

In fact, the question should be "what", rather than "who". The street was named after H.M.S. Rodney, a Royal Navy ship which stopped briefly in Portrush back in 1930. When she was commissioned in 1927, Rodney was one of the largest battleships in the world; she had a complement of 1,315 crew, was 710 feet long and 105 feet wide and had cost £6,500,000 to build. H.M.S. Rodney, in turn, was named after the celebrated Admiral, George Rodney (1718-1792), of the Royal Navy.

The arrival of the Rodney caused great excitement. Thousands of spectators braved unseasonal rain to watch her set anchor in the West Bay at midday on Monday 9 June 1930. A motor launch immediately set sail from the harbour to greet Captain A.B. Cunningham D.S.O. and his crew. On board the launch were Portrush's finest, including council officials and other leading residents. On their return, the officers of Rodney joined them in the Ballroom at the Northern Counties Hotel and plans were finalised for the week ahead.



Rodney Street, Portrush, which was named by Captain A. B. Cunningham, D.S.O., R.N. (Inset), in honour of the visit of his ship, H.M.S. Rodney, to Portrush. He also inaugurated Portrush Shopping Week. ("Northern Whig" Photograph)

"I refuse to say goodbye!"

However, it was with disappointment that those plans had to be set aside the next morning when the notorious Portrush weather closed in. By Tuesday evening, Captain Cunningham believed he had no choice other than to take his ship back to sea. He sent a message to R.B. Adams, Chairman of the Council, giving his farewells; in response Adams replied "I refuse to say goodbye!" Cunningham relented and Rodney remained at anchor.

For the next three days, the Rodney was tossed around on a heavy swell, which prevented any boats making the short trip to, or from, the shore. Such was the magnitude of the storm that 120 of the Rodney's crew reported to the ship's doctor suffering from sea sickness.

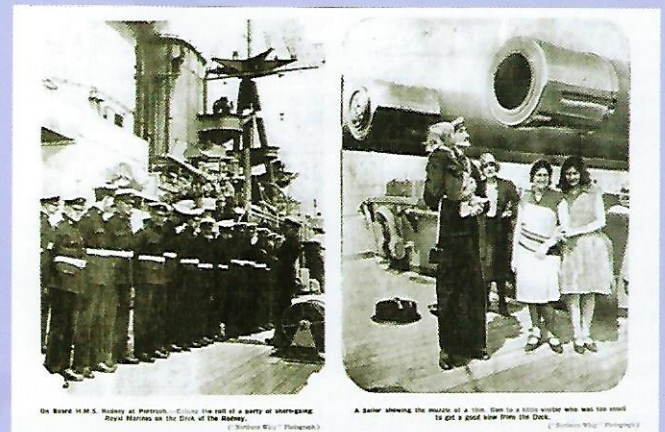
Finally, by the weekend, the sea was calm again. Portrush was now bathed in sunshine and the crew could finally enjoy the hospitality of the town. To make them feel welcome, the ship's officers were presented with honorary membership of Royal



HMS Rodney in Portrush; photo courtesy of John Moore Collection

Portrush Golf Club and crew members were given free passes for the Causeway Tram to see the famous landmark.

Among the activities performed that weekend by Captain Cunningham was the most important event of their visit - the naming of a street in honour of H.M.S. Rodney. At that time, Rodney Street was a development of 28 modern houses on the Crocknamac Road built by local contractor H.E. Catherwood. The crowds who gathered to watch the ribbon cutting ceremony enjoyed a unique moment, with the magnificent ship resting offshore as the street was given its historic new name.



As the day came to a close, Captain Cunningham was presented with a ship's cat by Mrs. Gormley of Hopefield Avenue, a black Persian kitten which Cunningham appropriately named Rodney.

H.M.S. Rodney sailed from Portrush on Monday 16 June 1930. In the years which followed, her sister ship, H.M.S. Nelson, made visits to the town in 1933 and 1938 but the great ship herself never managed a return trip. She fought in memorable action during the Second World War and was notably involved in the famous engagement which sank the German battleship Bismark in 1941. H.M.S. Rodney was finally withdrawn from service by the Royal Navy in 1948.

Rodney Street, of course, is still there. It has now been joined by Rodney Square and the name continues to be a largely overlooked link to our maritime past. It is a landmark to a great and noble ship, and her crew, which served our country so proudly during those difficult and troubled times.



The White House: A Portrush Institution

By Hugh McGrattan

THE White House in Portrush has been described as being as much an institution as a retail outlet and it is probably true. Its presence in the town and the quality of service it has maintained have been major factors in the commercial development of the resort.

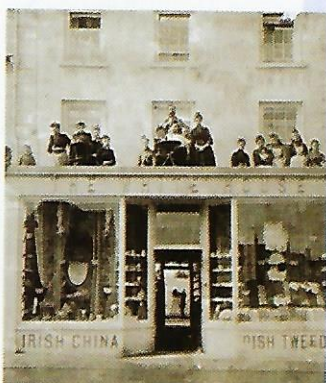
Founded 130 years ago by Henry Hamilton, a Portglenone man newly returned from the United States, whose previous contact with the town had been as an apprentice with another famous Portrush firm, Messrs Bamford. After 17 successful years in the newspaper business in New York and California, he returned to the town in 1891 to pay off a number of debts he had left behind and to marry his long-time sweetheart Margaret Allen.

His credentials as an honest man now re-established and armed with immense experience in retailing and advertising, Henry Hamilton opened a small shop on Church Street, Portrush (as Main Street was then known). He called it The White House, presumably in deference to the land of opportunity that had given him so much.

The design of the new shop was described as "highly artistic". The entire front "from sidewalk to roof" was finished in white and gold. Four immense panes of polished glass plate were used on the lower storey.

Declared the announcement in the local press: "Messrs. Hamilton and Co. propose giving the visitors and residents of Portrush and neighbouring towns an opportunity to purchase everything in the line of ladies' and gentlemen's wear of the best quality and most fashionable styles, at the lowest possible prices." An inspired decision was the inclusion of "a large depot for all kinds of Irish homespun, hosiery and lace, Irish china and hand-embroidered Irish linen". It was a virtually untapped market and Henry Hamilton saw the potential.

The White House opened for business on Thursday, 21 May, 1891, and right from the start business boomed! Each year following the opening it was found necessary to increase the size of the White House. In seven years the original 21 feet frontage had grown to 66 feet and by 1906 it was 100 feet long by 100 feet wide.



An early photograph of the White House, Portrush, with the staff assembled on the first floor balcony. In the centre is the bearded Mr. Henry Hamilton. The photographer has "captured" himself in the reflected doorway (an early selfie?). Notice also the small boy (possibly a young Hamilton) perched precariously on the left, An anxious looking lady seems to be about to snatch him to safety!

Much credit for the success of the White House must go to the proprietor's advertising skills as well as his knowledge of the rapidly expanding field of mail order. Adverts in local, provincial and cross-channel publications, as well as inserts, handbills, circulars and posters, were used by Hamilton and Co. in bringing the White House and its wares before the public. Passengers arriving at Portrush in the cross-channel steamers were urged by a huge placard on the North Pier: "When in Portrush visit the White House". Similar placards appeared adjacent to railway lines and on the main roads leading into the town.

In the closing months of 1896, little more than five years after the business had been founded, a request was received from no less a personage than Queen Victoria herself for samples of dress materials in Irish



The White House, Portrush, courtesy of the John Moore collection

homespun. Just a month before Christmas, an extensive order was received from Windsor Castle.

Further Royal orders were received in subsequent years. The Princess of Wales, for example, placed a large order for Christmas presents in 1903. The same day came a big order from Dublin Castle. The Duchess of Abercorn placed an order for a dozen silk-lined carriage cloaks for her stall at a charity bazaar in London. A further order was received the day the first was dispatched. The largest order, however, was from a wholesale firm in Brisbane, Australia, and the biggest private order from His Highness the Rajah of Pudukkottai in South India – for 26 suits!

In 1908 they built a large new Post Office at Causeway Street in Portrush, three storeys high – the result, it was rumoured, of the extraordinary mail order business that was now being carried on at the White House!

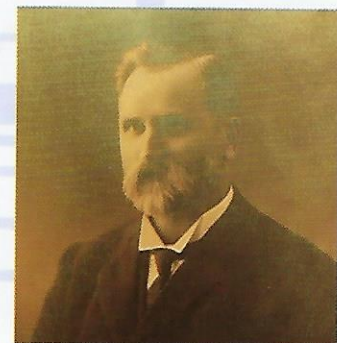
Henry Hamilton, creator of the White House, died on the morning of Wednesday, 28 December, 1910. He was only 59. "Few men in the North of Ireland", declared his obituary, "were more widely known than Mr. Hamilton, who led in every local improvement and whose influence on public business was most usefully exerted."

After Henry's death, his wife continued the active supervision of the White House, assisted by her son, Harry, who had trained in the world-famous Selfridge's store in London. Several major expansions created the fine building on Main Street that we know today, for the White House still stands on the site on which it was founded.

The firm remained with the Hamilton family for three generations but in 1965 the store was sold to Messrs. Crowe Wilson and Co. Ltd. Then, from the early 1970s it was taken over by another of the area's major retail firms, Messrs J.W. Moore of Coleraine, an expanded organisation of which is now known as Ulster Stores. And just two years ago further improvement plans for the White House were announced, still on the same site on which it began business 130 years ago.



The cover of an end-of-season pamphlet published by the White House in 1906. The store was then 25 times bigger than 15 years previously.



Mr. Henry Hamilton, 1851-1910, creator of the White House, Portrush. Photo courtesy of Rory Hamilton.

May Hezlett – A Golfing Superstar

By Anne Marie McAleese

Unsuspecting visitors to Portrush on a summers evening in 1899 might have been forgiven for wondering why the centre of the town was unusually busy. Hundreds of people had gathered around the railway station to give a rapturous welcome to a teenage golfing sensation. As 17 year old May Hezlett and her Mother made their way towards the jubilant crowds, the sky above the West Strand beach dazzled in a blaze of colour and the air was filled with the loud, crackling sound of fireworks. A celebration befitting the champion golfer that May Hezlett had, unassailably, just become. In back to back triumphs, she won the Ladies Open Championship, staged by the Ladies Golfing Union of the United Kingdom, just two weeks after winning the Irish Ladies Open Championship. Both prestigious tournaments were played at the links course in Newcastle, County Down.



'Miss May', as she was known, was the most accomplished of the four talented golfing Hezlett sisters, introduced to the game at the age of 9, by her mother, also a skilled exponent of the relatively new sport. By 11, she had won her first competition using only a cleek, mashie and putter. Her aptitude for golf was matched only by her passion for it. The family lived in Bovagh in Aghadowey but spent much of their time in Portrush. As a young girl May honed her considerable golfing skills and soon joined the ranks of the older women of the Ladies Club in Portrush who themselves had blazed a trail for womens golf at the turn of the 19th century.

May Hezlett went on to claim four further Irish Championships in 1904, 1905, 1906 and 1908 and added two British Championship titles in 1902 and 1907.

In 1913 the LGU awarded May Hezlett and Rhona Adair scratch handicaps for life in recognition of their excellence and mastery of golf. May became the inaugural President of Royal Portrush Ladies in 1922, having been Lady Captain in 1905. She remained President until the Open was held for the first time at Royal Portrush in 1951. A portrait of her by artist Harry Douglas, commissioned by the club to celebrate her success, still hangs in the Portrush Ladies clubhouse.

May Hezlett died in the winter of 1978 at the age of 95. Little could she have known when she arrived on the platform of Portrush train station eight decades earlier that she would go on to carve her name in the annals of golfing history. And how she would have relished the oldest and most prestigious golf tournament in the world returning to the scene of so many of her victories. She watched the Open when it was first played in Royal Portrush 68 years ago and no doubt, in 2019, her spirit was felt especially, by Royal Portrush Ladies, watching keenly as the worlds best golfers tried to tame this mighty links. Over a century ago, behind all these great golfing men, there was indeed, at least one, even greater golfing woman.

Committee Biographies

Jade Thorne

Hi, my name is Jade and I'm a teacher at Carnalridge Primary School. I studied Ancient History and Archeology at TCD, and have loved re-igniting that passion for historical knowledge through membership of the PHG over the last few years.

YEP! has been a great opportunity for all the local schools to collaborate and brainstorm a resource that will offer local children knowledge about their home town. I'm really excited to get the kids out and about and exploring all the heritage, flora, fauna, myths and legends associated with Portrush. It will be such a great way to connect kids to their environment and to nurture their pride in Portrush and sense of belonging somewhere special.



Sheila Fairon

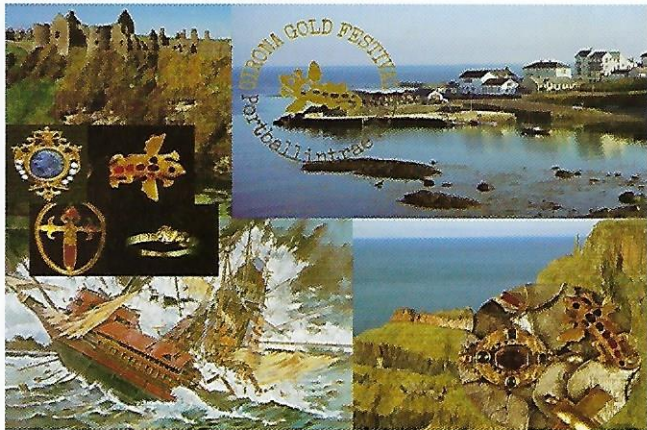
Hello...my name is Sheila Fairon and I am the photographer for Portrush Heritage Group. I have documented the activities of the group over the last years, photographing Pirates off Portrush Festival, ongoing projects, monthly meetings and committee training sessions. It is my role to record these varied activities of the Group and its engagement with local communities and organisations. I also do some press photography.

As a photographer, my interest is in telling a story and the opportunity to document the growth of Portrush Heritage Group has been a pleasure. Our archive of photographs provides, not only a visual record of our journey, but more recently, a source of imagery for our media outlets. It is good to know that the visual history of this flourishing Portrush organisation is being told and will be there for reference in the future!



Our Community Partners

Portballintrae Community Development Group



Portballintrae Community Development Group, have launched the "Girona Gold Project," and our aim is to inform everyone – young and old – of the story of "La Girona" that sank at Lacada Point (off The Giant's Causeway) with the loss of 1300 sailors, slaves and noblemen (not forgetting their horses) who had taken part in the Spanish Armada in 1588. As we have been told by a local historian "Portballintrae is the portal for us to let people know what is right on our doorstep about the story of *La Girona*", and the more we have got involved, the more exciting it has become!

In 1967/8 Robert Sténuit led a team of divers to recover a large amount of personal items showing extreme wealth, proving that the nobles on board, despite their many problems, retained their gold and jewellery for use when they returned to Spain. We have established close connections with similar groups in Ireland and are inextricably linked with www.armadainvencible.org in Madrid and with Spanish and US communities who have similar interests.

We are bringing the story of *La Girona* to life, and this has allowed us to create the (now annual) "Girona Gold Maritime Festival" which is a two-day event in July, and includes a series of water borne challenges including the Coleraine Yacht Club Race for the MacLaine Trophy. Historical talks, guided tours and lots of children's activities – especially our 'Boat Cave and crabfishing, not forgetting music, Traditional and Modern. RNLI. HM Coastguard, PSNI join us also. Gig Racing and Curragh Boats. There is something for everyone!

We also hold a series of events in Portballintrae which incorporate cultural music and food events, to help us raise funds for several local for Charity.

In 2021 we will be developing further historical, artistic and musical events which will expand the communities exposure to the story and allow Portballintrae to play its part, in 'leaving' this historical legacy of *La Girona* and The Spanish Armada for future generations.

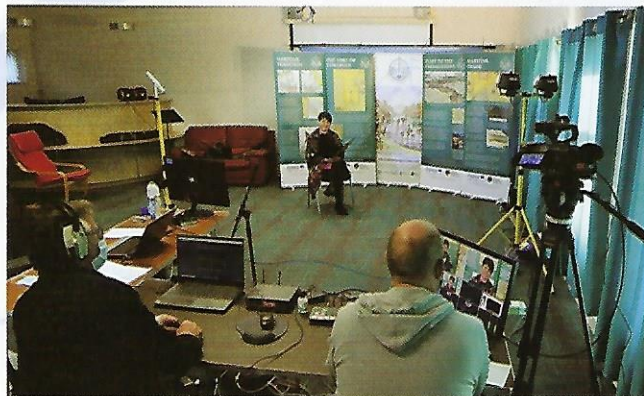
Please feel free to follow us on our Facebook page – Portballintrae.Community and www.gironagold.com. We would like to share this lovely piece with you on the shipwreck of *La Girona*. *Unfortunately our Group was not able to carry out our annual commemoration due to the present pandemic. Hopefully we will be able to gather together in 2021. Stay safe!

Heritage Showcases Go Live



Thanks to the National Lottery and its players Portrush Heritage Group (PHG) can now make the presentations for its Heritage Evenings available as video webcasts which will be available through its website <https://discoverportrush.com/about-us/>

The development of this new information channel is being directed by John Moore who is ably assisted by Mervyn McKay, Stuart Cullen and PHG Committee Members. The first recording session (fully Covid Compliant), was held on Saturday 12th December in the Kelly Memorial Hall.



Mervyn McKay and Stuart Cullen recording Brenda Semple for one of the Heritage Showcases

Commenting on the project John stated, "We are grateful that The National Lottery Heritage Fund is supporting us at this crucial time with the purchase of equipment and volunteer training – it has proved to be a lifeline for us and if proof were needed over 130 of our members have paid their 2021 subscription.

The first Heritage Showcase is already on our website and further Showcase will be posted on 13th January, 27th January, 10th February and 24th February.

The recording of further material for future Showcases is planned (Covid permitting) for Mid February and our thanks go to Holy Trinity Church for allowing us the use of the Kelly Memorial Hall for our recording".



PORTRUSH HERITAGE GROUP

A Gift of Membership:

Your support is so important to us. We ask please that you add your voice to ours so that Portrush's Heritage can be brought to the attention of all who share a common interest in the value of preserving the past and protecting it for future generations.

You can join us in 2021 by paying a subscription of £10 by bank transfer to the Account of Portrush Heritage Group at the Danske Bank, Coleraine. The Bank Sort Code is 95-06-79 and our Account Number is 50041629. Please remember to identify the subscription with your full name. Also we suggest you confirm payment by email to Chairman.portushheritage@gmail.com.

You can also send your subscription by post to the Treasurer at Mr John White, 4 Rathmore Drive, Portrush, County Antrim.